GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:53
ANSWERED ON:04.03.2002
GANJA CULTIVATION ON RESERVE FORESTS
SURESH KURUP

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that a large area of reserve forests is being used for Ganja cultivation in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to prevent the same;

(d) whether there is any proposal to have an inter-State combined action plan to curb this menace; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R.BAALU)

(a),(b),(c)(d)&(e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a),(b),(c),(d)&(e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 53 FOR REPLY ON 4.3.2002.

(a)&(b) According to the information available with the Narcotics Control Bureau the States wheremajor seizures of ganja have been made during last three years include Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Maharashtra, Manipur, Nagaland, Orissa, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh. Narcotics ControlBureau does not maintain specific data regarding the extent and seizures made in respect of illegally cultivated ganja crop within reserved forests. According to the information provided by State Government of Tamil Nadu and Kerala, the extent of ganja cultivation within forest area during the year 2001 was as follows:

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Tamil Nadu  19.127 ha.
Kerala   50 ha.
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The remaining states have reported that no ganja cultivation was detected in the reserve forests during the said period.

(c) Forest Department, Kerala has set up an Anti Ganja Squad under the charge of Assistant Conservator of Forests to curb the illegal cultivation and take action against offenders. Forests officers have been empowered under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 for taking action against such offenders. The State Governments take action to destroy the ganja plants raised in forest areas. In Tamil Nadu regular patrolling of forest areas is done by Mobile Squads and action is taken against the persons indulging in illegal cultivation of Ganja within forest areas as and when detected. Liaison is also maintained in this regard with Revenue Department, Police Department and State Police Narcotic Bureau Wing.

(d)&(e) The Committee of Chief Wildlife Wardens of the Southern States have been entrusted withthe responsibilities of implementing inter-state combined action plan to curb this menace.